

PROVERBS 4 vs 1

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These Proverbs were first read by the royal families; the House of **Judah**, who were **the Praise of God**; and the House of **Israel** those who claimed to be **Ruled by God**. In them, you clearly find the path of royalty juxtaposed with the path of royal jackasses -- both small and great. It is crystal clear royalty and people of privilege fell off the wagon; nevertheless, the Proverbs still speak to the way of the wrong, as well as the way of the right.



When the things of God are to be taught precept must be upon precept, and line upon line, not only because the things themselves are of great worth and weight, but because men's minds, at the best, are commonly prejudiced against them – so wrote Matthew Henry. Solomon, for being a smart guy, he was pretty stupid. So many scholars love to point out Solomon spoke 3,000 proverbs and 1,005 songs. Hmm? When did he have time to be a thoughtful king? They fail to point out: Solomon had 700 wives and 300 girlfriends – **1 Kings 11**. And you wonder, when did he have time to be a thoughtful father and king? We know he ended his life saying: he played the fool. We know most of the kingdom was taken from him... and then he died – since he had done evil in the sight of the Lord.

A Father's Wise Instruction,

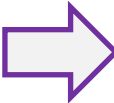
¹ Hear, O children, the instruction of a father, and attend to gain understanding.

² For I give you good doctrine / sound teaching, so you do **not forsake my law.**

³ For I was my father's son, tender and the only one beloved in the sight of my mother.

⁴ He taught me, and said to me, Let your heart hold fast to my words:

****keep** my instructions, and live / this is what Jesus told us, the night He was betrayed.**

 **⁵ Acquire **wisdom**, acquire understanding: do **not** forget, nor turn away from the words of my mouth.**

⁶ Do **not forsake **her**, and **she** will guard to protect you: love **her**, and **she** will watch over you.**

⁷ **Wisdom is the principal thing; so acquire **wisdom**: and with all your acquiring get understanding.**

⁸ Prize **her, and **she** will exult you: **she** will honor you, when you embrace **her**.**

⁹ **She will put on your head a victor's garland of grace: **she** will present you a glorious crown. / reread these verses in light of Paul who told us: **Jesus is the Wisdom of God** – 1 Corinthians 1**



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Warning, Warning: Avoid Bad Company,

¹⁰ Hear, O my son, and receive my sayings; and the years of your life will be many.

¹¹ I taught you in the way of **wisdom**; I led you in the upright paths / in the lawful ways.

¹² When you walk, your steps will **not** be impeded; if you run, you will **not** stumble.

¹³ Keep hold of instruction; do **not** let **her** go: guard her; for **she** is your life.



¹⁴ Do path **not** enter the of the wicked; do **not** go the way of evil / of the wrong.

¹⁵ Avoid it, do **not** pass by it, turn away from it, and pass on / keep on walking, don't stop.



¹⁶ For they **cannot** sleep, except they have done wrong; and they are robbed of sleep, unless they cause someone to fall / unable to rest unless they make one stumble – they are troublemakers, they do not care what harm they do to those who stand in their way; but it is their business to make trouble, and their delight is to cause trouble – Matthew Henry.

¹⁷ For they eat the bread of wickedness, and drink the wine of violence / wickedness and violence is their nourishment, their sustenance; their preferred thirst-quencher.



¹⁸ But the path of the just is as the dawning light, **that shines brighter and brighter** until the perfect day.

¹⁹ The way of the wicked is as darkness: they do **not** know over what they stumble.

²⁰ My son, attend to my words; lean your ear into **my sayings**.

²¹ Do **not** let them depart from your sight; guard them in the midst of your heart.

²² For they are life to those who find them, and health to all their being.

²³ **Guard** your heart with all diligence; for from it flows the issues of life.

²⁴ Put away from you a deceitful mouth; and perverse lips put far from you.

²⁵ Let your eyes look ahead; let your gaze be fixed straight in front of you.

²⁶ Consider the path of your feet, then all your ways will be established.

²⁷ Do not veer to the right or to the left: but turn your foot away from evil.

